

Claims

I claim:

1. A method for determining competitive partners from among a plurality of participants in a selected one of a plurality of rounds in a competitive event wherein selected ones of said participants have an associated ranking, said method comprising the steps of:
 - selecting, in accordance with said associated ranking, one of said participants,
 - allowing said selected participant to select one of said other participants;
 - and
 - removing said selected participant and selected other participant from further consideration for said selected round,
2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - organizing said participants into a first group and a second group wherein each of said participants in said first group is associated with said ranking.
3. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:
 - associating a ranking with each of said participants in said second group.
4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein said associated ranking is determined in accordance with completion of known events.
5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said known events are selected from the group consisting of: past competitive events among selected ones of said

participants, accumulated results of past competitive events among selected ones of said participants, random selection, a lottery.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said competitive events are selected from the group consisting of: sporting events, television game shows, reality shows; intellectual games.
7. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - recording a winning and a losing participant of an engagement from each of said selected participants and said selected other participants in said selected round; and
 - removing said losing participant from further participation in said competitive event.
8. The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of:
 - allowing said winning participant of said round to retain said associated ranking.
9. The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of:
 - allowing said winning participant of said competitive round to retain an associated ranking of said loser when said losing participant's associated ranking is higher.
10. The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of:
 - assigning a ranking to each winning participant of said round based on performance in said round.
11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said round is selected from the group consisting of sporting events, game shows, reality shows, intellectual games.

12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said participants are selected from the group consisting of: individuals, teams of individuals.
13. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said steps is executed until a single participant is remaining.
14. A method for operating a competitive event having a plurality of rounds among a plurality of competitors comprising the steps of:
 - a. determining a ranking for at least half of said plurality of competitors, wherein said ranking is associated with an order of selection;
 - b. selecting one of said ranked competitors in the order of said ranking;
 - c. allowing said selected ranked competitor to select one of said remaining competitors as a competitive partner;
 - d. continuously selecting said competitors until each of said competitors is associated with a competitive partner;
 - e. recording a winning and a losing competitor in an engagement of competitive partners in said round of competitive event;
 - f. removing said losing competitor from further participation; and
 - g. associating a new ranking with each remaining competitor.
15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said competitive event is selected from the group comprising: sporting events, game shows, reality shows, intellectual games.
16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein said sporting events are selected from the group consisting of: baseball, football, soccer, basketball, racing, golf, boxing, tennis.

17. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said ranking is determined from the group consisting of: prior performance, accumulated record in prior performance, a lottery, random selection.
18. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said new ranking is selected from the group consisting of: maintaining a current associated ranking, obtaining a losing competitor's ranking.
19. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
 - iteratively repeating steps a-g for each of said rounds.
20. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said competitors are selected from the group consisting of: individuals, teams, individuals within a team.
21. A system for determining competitive partners from among a plurality of participants in a selected one of a plurality of rounds in a competitive event wherein at least one of said participants has an associated ranking, said system comprising:
 - means operable to execute code for:
 - selecting, in accordance with said associated ranking, one of said participants;
 - allowing said selected participant to select one of said other participants;
 - removing said selected participant and selected other participant from further consideration for said selected round; and
 - continuously selecting said participants until each of said participants is removed from further consideration.

22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said means is further operable to execute code for:
- organizing said participants into a first group and a second group wherein each of said participants in said first group is associated with said ranking.
23. The system as recited in claim 22, wherein said means is further operable to execute code for:
- associating a ranking with each of said participants in said second group.
24. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said associated ranking is determined in accordance with completion of known events.
25. The system as recited in claim 24, wherein said known events are selected from the group consisting of: past competitive events among selected ones of said participants, accumulated results of past competitive events among selected ones of said participants, random selection, a lottery.
26. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said competitive events are selected from the group consisting of: sporting events; television game shows; intellectual games.
27. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said means is further operable for:
- recording a winning and a losing participant of an engagement of each of said selected participants and said selected other participants in said selected round; and
- removing said losing participant of said round from further participation in said competitive event.

28. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said means is further operable for:
allowing said winning participant of said round to retain said associated ranking.
29. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said means is further operable for:
allowing said winner participant of said competitive round to retain an associated ranking of said losing participant when said losing participant's associated ranking allows for earlier subsequent selection in a next round.
30. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said means is further operable for:
assigning an associated ranking to each winner participant of said round based on its performance in said round.
31. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said round is selected from the group consisting of sporting events, game shows, intellectual games.
32. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said participants are selected from the group consisting of: individuals, teams of individuals, selected individuals within teams.
33. The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising:
means for receiving results of each of said competitive rounds.
34. The system as recited in claim 20, wherein said means is a processor in communication with a memory.
35. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein said processor is operable to execute code stored in said memory.
36. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said means is a writing instrument in communication with a recording instrument.

37. The system as recited in claim 36, wherein said recording instrument is selected from the group consisting of: paper, touch sensitive electronic screen.
38. A method for determining competitive partners from among a plurality of participants in a selected one of a plurality of rounds in a competitive event wherein at least one of said participants has an associated ranking, said method comprising the steps of:
- organizing at least one of said participants into a first group and remaining ones of said participants into a second group;
 - selecting, within said second group in accordance with said associated ranking, one of said participants,
 - allowing said selected participant to select one of said other participants;
 - and
 - removing said selected participant and selected other participant from further consideration for said selected round.
39. The method as recited in claim 38, wherein each of said at least one of said participants in said first group has a higher associated ranking than each of said participants in said second group.
40. The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said associated ranking is determined in accordance with completion of known events.
41. The method as recited in claim 40, wherein said known events are selected from the group consisting of: past competitive events among selected ones of said participants, accumulated results of past competitive events among selected ones of said participants, random selection, a lottery.

42. The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said competitive events are selected from the group consisting of: sporting events; television game shows; reality shows; intellectual games.
43. The method as recited in claim 38, further comprising the steps of:
 - recording a winning and a losing participant of an engagement from each of said selected participants and said selected other participants in said selected round; and
 - removing said losing participant of said round from further participation in said competitive event.
44. The method as recited in claim 43, further comprising the step of:
 - allowing said winner participant of said round to retain said associated ranking.
45. The method as recited in claim 43, further comprising the step of:
 - allowing said winning participant of said competitive round to obtain an associated ranking of said loser when said loser's associated ranking is higher.
46. The method as recited in claim 43, further comprising the step of:
 - assigning an associated ranking to each winning participant of said round based on a performance in said round.
47. The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said round is selected from the group consisting of sporting events, game shows, reality shows, intellectual games.
48. The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said participants are selected from the group consisting of: individuals, teams of individuals.

49. The method as recited in claim 38, wherein said associated ranking of participants in said second group is determined randomly.